

SUBMISSION ON ZERO CARBON BILL --July 2018

I am a 70 year old with three grandchildren. I have lived the great part of my life in the South Island.

I have always felt a strong connection to our natural environment, and our family has always volunteered in local conservation projects for our already beleaguered native ecosystems.

Through my adult life I've become increasingly concerned by the reported effects on the planet's biosphere, of human overpopulation and our increasing world-wide affluence.

It is evident that we are now well into an anthropogenic epoch and two of the greatest threats to the world's bio systems are climate change and biodiversity loss.

Apart from the likely horrendous social implications of runaway climate change world-wide I have a real personal fear for new Zealand's vulnerable and already compromised natural biota.

It is projected that climate change will impose profound and irreversible change in our marine, freshwater and land based habitats. On land particularly there will be an exacerbation of existing threats associated with predator pressure, habitat loss and an increased potential for new invasive species.

I fear for the world that our grandchildren and their children will inherit from us.

For this reason I fully support the proposal for an ambitious Zero Carbon Act with a net zero carbon emission goal across all greenhouse gases including Co2 and methane.

The government should be required to be accountable for how this will be achieved and adopt five-yearly emissions budgets.

An independent Climate Commission should provide guidance to Government and publicize progress.

There should also be provision for national and local response to the impacts of climate change.

Peter C Hay